Revision of Norms for Implementation of National watershed Development Project

1659. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted proposals to the Central Government seeking to revise certain norms which came in the way of effective implementation of the national watershed development programme in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether these proposals have since been approved; and

(c) if not, by what time a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c) 12 model watershed projects under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) were received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for revision. Out of these 12 model watershed projects, 8 were discussed in detail with the State Nodal Officer, NWDPRA and concerned field officers in the first week of October, 1994. The expansion of components and area were agreed to in principle and it was decided that these would be cleared on the receipt of detailed project proposals. The remaining 4 projects could not be discussed as the basic information was not available. It has been decided that a Central Team jointly with State Government Officers would visit these watersheds and finalise the projects.

Waste of Water Resources

1660. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether experts on water management have expressed grave concer at the "criminal waste" of the precious life source in many way in the country and called for its effective utilisation and conservation in agriculture and other fields;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action stressing the need to keep in view the conservation of fertile soil while making use of water for irrigation purpose; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some suggestions were made at a meeting convened by him towards the end of last month to review the functioning of different programmes under the Ministry, particularly, monitoring the performance of command area development programmes and to make release of Central funds to States conditional on the States, fixing proper water rates; and

(d) if so, Government reaction to the above suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Experts have expressed concern on present pattern of water usage and called for its effective utilisation time and again.

(b) Under the centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme, construction of field channels and field drains is taken up based on extensive soil surveys with the aim of ensuring optimum flow of water for irrigation, avoiding waterlogging and salinity and thereby conserving fertile soil while using water for irrigation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestions are being processed.

सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के निर्माण में गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं की भागीदारी बनाया जाना

1661. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज** : क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार देश में सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के निर्माण में गैर सरकारी संस्थाओं को भागीदार बनाने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ,

(ग) सितम्बर, 1994 तक कितनी सिंचाई परियोजनाएं निर्माणाधीन थीं और उनकी कुल सिंचाई क्षमता कितनी है ,

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इन परियोजनाओं के निर्माण को पूरा करने के लिए अपेक्षित निधियों की कमी भी महसूस की जा रही है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इन परियोजनाओं के निर्माण को पूरा करने के लिए कुल कितनी धनराशी की आवश्यकता है और उनके निर्माण पर पहले ही कितनी धनराशी खर्च की जा चुकी है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्रालय में तथा जल संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. के. थुंगन) ;

(क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) 158 वृहद, 226 मझौली और 95 विस्तार/नवीकरण/आधुनिकीकरण योजनाएं आठवीं योजना में आगे लाई गई हैं । 9/94 तक उपर्युक्त में से, 7 वृहद, 6 मध्यम तथा 2 विस्तार/नवीकरण/आधुनिकीकरण योजनाएं पूरी हो गई हैं । इनकी कुल चरम क्षमता 24.812 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है ।

(घ) सिंचाई परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने में विलंब के कारणों में से एक कारण निधियों की कमी है ।

(ङ) आठवीं योजना के शुरू में निर्माणाधीन वृहद, मझौली और विस्तार/नवीकरण/आधुनिकीकरण योजनाओं की कुल अनुमानित लागत 65,576 करोड़ रुपये हैं तथा 3/92 तक 25.503 करोड़ रुपये की राशि खर्च की गई है । वर्ष 1992—94 के दौरान इन योजनाओं पर अतिरिक्त प्रत्याशि व्यय 5,631 करोड़ रुपये है ।

Foreign Aid and Loan for Flood control Projects

1662. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign aid and loan received for Flood Control Projects during the year, 1992-93, 1993-94 and upto June 1994-95; and

(b) the amount allocated to various projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) :

(a) During 1992-93, 1993-94 and upto June, 1994-95 no foreign aid and loans were received for flood control projects.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in Irrigation Charges

1663. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a report to increase the irrigation charges to cover the higher cost of operation and maintenance;

(b) if so, what are the criterion used to ascertain these charges ;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of irrigation schemes are incurring heavy losses due to substandard maintenance; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that operation and maintenance departments are involved in large scale corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) :

(a) The Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water set up by the Planning Commission in October '91 submitted its report in September '92. The Irrigation being a State subject, the copies of the report have been circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

(b) The Committee recommended water charges to be treated as User's charge with an eventual objective to recover full cost i.e. operation and maintenance costs, interest and depreciation in phases. The Committee also recommended that in the first phase, water charges should cover atleast operation and maintenance costs and one per cent interest on capital employed.